FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MARCH 1987

Lebanon

A Syrian source cited by the UAE's *Al-Khalij* 8 March denied the recent *Al-Ittihad* story that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite is being held at a Syrian center in 'Anjar. The "highly-placed" source also dismissed *Al-Ittihad*'s claim that three hostages were killed when the Syrians took over Hizballah's barracks in Al-Bastah. Syrian forces in Beirut arrested a number of student political activists on the American University campus 10 March, AFP reported, noting that those detained included members of Hizballah, the PSP, and the Amal Movement.

On the political level, Voice of Lebanon radio cited a Lebanese Forces (LF) statement that reaffirmed the LF's opposition to Syria's "illegitimate" entry into West Beirut, called for the resignation of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government, and urged Lebanese leaders not to fall into the "trap" of seeking salvation through those "who continue to swallow up and annex Lebanon." The LF are "astonished" by political proposals that focus on "trivial issues" at a time when the country is under occupation and faces a crisis of existence and destiny, the statement asserted.

Israel and the United States

A U.S. Defense Department note to Israel expresses "strong language" over the appointment of Colonel Avi'em Sela' as head of the Tel Nof air base and threatens a "total boycott" of the base by U.S. military personnel, Jerusalem radio reported. Israeli Foreign Ministry officials have warned that Israel can expect difficulties in many aspects of its relations with the United States if it does not investigate the Pollard affair and remove Rafi Eytan and Col Sela' from their posts, the radio noted. However, the daily *Ma'ariv* criticized Israeli leaders for failing to react firmly to U.S. pressure over the Pollard affair, contending that Pollard's espionage activities would not have been needed if the United States had been "fair and honest" with Israel and supplied it with military information about the PLO and hostile Arab countries. The paper spoke of an "anti-Israeli incitement campaign" involving the U.S. secretary of defense and "all those in the administration who do not like us," and it claimed that there are "numerous examples" of U.S. espionage activities in Israel.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iraqi V Army Corps crushed an Iranian offensive in the north 10 March, INA reported. In contrast, an Iranian military commander told IRNA that in the "Karbala'-7" operation Iranian forces broke through all fortified Iraqi positions and repulsed nine counteroffensives. In other developments, in a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman announced Iraqi planes raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast 10 March. An Iraqi military spokesman also denied Iranian claims of downing an Iraqi MiG-23 near Basra, INA reported.

The Iranian Embassy in Beijing denied a statement by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the PRC sold arms to Iran, branding Shultz' claim an attempt to "cover up" U.S. defeats, IRNA reported.

Saudi Arabia

Oil Talks With Iran — Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh described talks with his Saudi counterpart as "constructive and good." In a statement to SPA before leaving Riyadh, Aqazadeh added that they agreed on the need to adhere to OPEC production quotas.

Death Penalty for Drugs — Saudi religious leaders have called for the death penalty for drug traffickers, the interior minister announced in remarks reported by Riyadh radio. Such sentences must be passed by the Islamic Shari'ah courts and approved by King Fahd, the minister said.

Morocco and the Western Sahara

A Moroccan military communique reported by MAP spoke of "numerous clashes" between Moroccan troops and "mercenaries" in the Mahbes-farsia area during the last 2 weeks, adding that the fighting did not prevent Morocco's attempts to extend its defensive wall system. The communique claimed that 204 enemy troops were killed, while Moroccan losses amounted to 27 dead and 61 injured. On the Saharan side, an SDAR statement cited by Algiers radio announced that Polisario fighters killed 120 Moroccans and wounded 200 in a 9 March attack on Moroccan positions in the area. Algiers radio also noted the SDAR president's arrival in Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Libya

A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement condemned French President Mitterrand's 10 March statement that the solution to the Chad conflict is primarily military, Tripoli television reported. It declared the remark proof of France's intent to prolong the fighting in Chad.

Palestinian Unity Talks

Leaders of five Palestinian factions opened unity talks in Tunis 9 March, TAP reported. At the same time, a second round of talks was held in Algiers between Fatah's Khalil al-Wazir and PFLP leader George Habash, TAP added.

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Cordovez Comments at End of Geneva Talks

LD101553 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The routine phase of the seventh round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan ended in Geneva. The DRA delegation to the talks is headed by DRA Minister of Foreign Affairs Comrade Abdol Wakil. The Pakistani delegation is headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. The talks were conducted through Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general.

Cordovez stated today during a press conference that the present phase of the seventh round of talks ended today. Both sides need further consultations in their countries. The talks will resume very soon. He added that so far considerable progress has been made in the views of both sides concerning the solution of the situation around Afghanistan. Both sides have put forward proposals in this regard. He also said that at the present stage, talks and consultations are needed in the capitals of both countries.

AFP Says Militia Units To Replace Soviet Troops

BK101332 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP) — Afghanistan's internal security force has been assigned to take over from an unspecified number of Soviet troops expected to leave the northern provinces later this month, Western diplomats said here Tuesday. The 30,000-strong Sarandoy militia force is currently deployed throughout Afghanistan, with most of it manning security in Kabul.

The diplomats said six Sarandoy units comprising 2,500 militiamen were being despatched to the Mazar-e Sharif and Konduz Provinces along the Soviet border as a troop withdrawal was expected to be announced on March 21.

The diplomats gave no figures but speculation in the Afghan capital said 50,000 Soviet soldiers could be pulled out this year. Moscow, which has stationed an estimated 120,000 troops to back the Kabul regime following its December 1979 invasion of Afghanistan, withdrew six regiments comprising 8,000 troops last fall.

The diplomats said the Sarandoy was being brought in the wake of reports that the Afghan Army was not getting enough con scripts. Only last week, troops opened fire to disperse parents protesting the press-ganging of their children.

The diplomats also reported heavy fighting in northern Afghanistan where they said the Kabul regime lost several outposts. The conflict also blocked traffic and disrupted supplies.

Over 120 militiamen and Afghan soldiers have been reported killed since the fighting erupted last month, they said.

Defense Minister Issues Conscription Instruction

LD102308 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Regulations issued by DRA defense minister concerning call-up and conscription of DRA subjects and issuance of discharge certificates to NCO's and those completing their military service in the DRA Armed Forces; dated 10 March, Kabul]

[Text] In accordance with the DRA General Conscription Law, approved by the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium on 24 February, 1987, the following instruction has been issued:

1. Under the present circumstances, the call-up and conscription of male subjects should be carried out daily in accordance with paragraph 4, Article 19, of the General Conscription Law.

Those male subjects of the DRA who, in the call-up year have reached the age of 18, who were subject to call-up, or who due to various reasons have not completed their term of military or reserve service, should be called up and conscripted.

2. The military commissariates of the provinces, cities, wards, and districts are duty bound to organize the call-up and conscription of the subjects to military service in accordance with paragraph 4, Article 19, chapter 3 of the General Conscription Law.

3. The unit commanders and heads of the institutions are duty bound to issue discharge certificates to those unit's NCO's and men who have completed the legal term of military service and reserve period, by 15 March-20 April 1987.

In the future, the issuing of discharges at the end of the military service should take place at the end of each month — valid from the 20th of the month [as heard].

The issuing of discharges for the unit NCO's and men should take place during glorious ceremonies and the detail of the registration of military calculation in the military companies should be distributed to them.

[Signed] DRA Minister of Defense Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi

Mujahidin Kill 200 Soviet-Kabul Troops

BK110819 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] In Afghanistan, there are reports of heavy fighting in the northern region where the mujahidin have killed 200 Soviet-Kabul troops. Several Soviet-Kabul army posts near the air base of Baghran and another near (Kamabagh) have also been overrun by the mujahidin. Four other posts in northern (Shumali,) near Golbahar, were abandoned by the Soviet-Kabul troops. Continued fighting has also been reported in and around the cities of Qandahar and Herat. In other operations the mujahidin have also shot down two Soviet-Kabul aircraft and two helicopters in Konduz, Parvan, and Khowst areas.

Visiting DPRK Minister, Mattar View Trade

BK110150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The entire gamut of trade between Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was discussed at a meeting held between the commerce minister and the visiting Korean minister for external economic affairs, Chong Song-nam, in Dhaka yesterday. Commerce Minister M.A. Mattar hoped that the present barter protocol, which was signed last January, would increase the volume of trade between the two countries and help remove the present imbalance of trade. The Korean minister assured the commerce minister that he would look into the trade problems.

'Stern Punishment' Promised for 'Nefarious Acts'

BK110905 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0700 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] continued discussion on the vote of thanks on president's address to the House when it resumed its session this morning with the speaker, Shamshul Huda Chowdhury, in the chair. [passage omitted on the names of those who took part in the discussion]

Earlier, the House disposed of three call-attention notices. The deputy prime minister in charge of the Ministry of Home, Professor M.A. Matin, said that stern punishment will be awarded to those responsible for such antipeople and nefarious acts like demolishing of Shahid Minar [martyrs column]. He was making the statement in response to a call-attention notice by Mr Mohammad Qamarruzzaman of Awami League on the demolition of Shahid Minar at Hat Gopalpur high school premises in Chinaida District on the night of the 20th of last month. One person has already been arrested who confessed his involvement in the incident and named two of his accomplices. Police inquiry is on.

In reply to another call-attention notice by Professor Mutibur Rahman of Jamiat-i-Islami relating to hurling of hand grenades and opening up fire on a recent procession of Islamic Chhatra Sibir [students group] in Chittagong City in which two persons were killed and a number of others injured. A case has already been instituted, and police inquiry is going on. In the meantime, nine persons have been arrested. The home minister assured the House that those found quilty will be given exemplary punishment. [passage omitted on works minister's statement on construction program]

Romanian President Arrives on 3-Day Visit

BK091617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] The president of Romania, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived in New Delhi today on a 3-day state visit to India. He was received at the airport by the president, Giani Zail Singh; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; Cabinet ministers; diplomats; and senior civil and military officials. He was given a 21-gun salute as he inspected a guard of honor presented by the contingents from the three services.

During his stay, the Romanian president will meet the president, the vice president, and several central ministers. Tomorrow he will have talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on issues of international importance and mutual interest. Two agreements between Romania and India will be signed tomorrow. One will be on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, while the other on avoidance of double taxation. Mr Ceausescu and his wife will leave for Dhaka on Thursday [12 March].

Attends Banquet Hosted by President

BK110349 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] India and Romania have called for a campaign to halt the nuclear arms race and the elimination of such weapons by the turn of the century. The Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu, and the president, Giani Zail Singh, said that the worsening international, political, and economic situation has heightened the danger of war which could ultimately lead to a nuclear catastrophe.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the Romanian president by Giani Zail Singh in New Delhi last night, the two leaders stressed the need for dialogue and understanding for everlasting peace. They welcomed the 6-nation initiative toward elimination of nuclear weapons and prevention of the extension of the arms race into outer space. Both Giani Zail Singh and Mr Ceausescu expressed concern over the global economic crisis and called for establishment of a New World Economic Order. Giani Zail Singh spoke of the need for peaceful coexistence and deplored that India's efforts to build understanding with its neighbors are being thwarted. He hoped that the mutually beneficial cooperation between India and Romania will acquire new dimensions.

Talks With President, Gandhi

BK101701 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, called on the Romanian president, Mr Nicolae Ceausescu. Before the talks between the two delegations began, Mr Gandhi and Mr Ceausescu discussed a wide range of subjects. They included bilateral cooperation and promotion of trade between the two countries. Later, the two delegations held talks on a variety of subjects, including cooperation in economic and scientific fields.

This morning the Romanian leader called on the president, Giani Zail Singh. The meeting lasted half an hour. Bilateral relations and world issues figured in the talks.

Mr Nicolae Ceausescu is on a 3-day visit to the country. He arrived in the capital yesterday. The president is hosting a banquet in honor of the visiting leader tonight.

The engagements of the Romanian president included a visit to the Nehru Museum and Indira Gandhi Memorial. At number 1 Safdarganj Road, Mr Ceausescu paid homage to Mrs Indira Gandhi at the spot where she fell to the bullets of the assassin. He went round the photo exhibition at the memorial which depicts the long and eventful career of the former prime minister.

Cooperation, Taxation Accords Signed

BK101657 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] India and Romania have signed two separate agreements on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation and for avoidance of double taxation on income. The commerce minister, Mr P. Shiv Shankar, signed the agreement on the economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, while the agreement on avoidance of double taxation was signed by the minister of state for finance, Mr Brahm Dutt, in New Delhi today. The deputy prime minister of Romania, Mr Dimitrie Ancuta, signed both the agreements on behalf of his country.

Speaking to radio newsreel, Mr Shiv Shankar said the agreement on economic, technical, and scientific cooperation will more than double the bilateral trade by the end of the decade. Cooperation in joint ventures will lead to the economic development of both the countries and exports to third countries.

When the agreement on the avoidance of double taxation comes into the enterprises of one country, [they] would be taxed in the country only if they carry on business there through a permanent establishment. Income from royalty, fees for technical services, dividends, and interests will also be taxed at concessional rates after the treaty comes into force.

Gandhi Urged To Help Ease Sri Lanka Situation

BK110459 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Bajpai, has urged the prime minister to take immediate steps to stop the situation in the Jaffna region of Sri Lanka from deteriorating further. In a statement in New Delhi Mr Bajpai urged the center to send food, medicine, and other essential items to those people suffering in Jaffna. The Sri Lankan Government, he said, should refrain from causing untold suffering to innocent citizens.

Gandhi 'Performance' in Parliament Criticized

BK091553 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 23 Feb 87 p 8

[Article by Madhu Dandavate, opposition leader, "Rajiv Gandhi in Parliament"]

[Text] If one objectively assesses the performance of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Parliament what is most obvious is his casualness, ad hocism, and lack of commitment to definite perspectives, policies, programmes, and values.

In his first major intervention in the Lok Sabha during the debate on motion of thanks to the President, Mr Rajiv Gandhi had observed that the Congress (I) did not feel the pulse of the people during the Emergency and so in 1977 the Congress (I) was rejected by the people. So also the Janata Party did not feel the pulse of the people in 1980 and therefore it too was rejected. In a way it was a clear admission that the proclamation of Emergency in 1975 was a blunder. Later on, when Mr Gandhi addressed a press conference he defended the proclamation of Emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975. He implusively declared that if internal situation in the country so demanded, he would not hesitate to declare an emergency.

When the echoes of his announcement were heard the next day in Parliament and the Opposition raised the issue, Mr Gandhi tried to wriggle out of his earlier observations on the emergency. While he hinted at the press conference that he may declare emergency if the internal situation in the country demanded it, he was oblivious of the amendment made in Article 352 of the Constitution. The amended article made it explicit that an emergency could be declared only in the event of a threat of war or external aggression or armed rebellion in the country. Rattled by the vociferous criticism by the Opposition, the Prime Minister tried to argue in the Lok Sabha that the emergency could not be declared in the country even in the event of internal disturbances and read out the amended provision of the Constitution. This was, however, only an afterthought. This small incident regarding the Prime Minister's utterances about emergency and his futile efforts in Parliament to wriggle out of the situation only showed the casualness with which the Prime Minister made political comments.

Handling of the situation in Punjab and the Prime Minister's observations in Parliament revealed how he tried to tackle the Punjab problem in an ad hoc manner and lacked understanding of its gravity and complexity.

The agreement was signed by the Prime Minister and Sant Longowal. Prior to the announcement of the accord in Parliament, Mr Gandhi invited Opposition leaders for a few minutes and shared with them the text of the accord which was already a fait accompli. A few minutes later when the Prime Minister read out the accord in the Lok Sabha, the Opposition did not take an obstructive posture with the sole desire that if the contending parties were satisfied by the accord it may help to end the strife in Punjab. But subsequent events revealed that the accord was drafted in a very casual manner. It was a case of marrying in haste and repenting at leisure. The timeframe announced in Parliament for implementation of various parts of the accord was unrealistic and the terms of reference for the commission to be appointed to identify Hindi-speaking villages to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh becoming the capital of Punjab, were too rigid and would hamper the transfer of villages to Haryana.

The mess which the Prime Minister made with the 'expert' advice of Law and Home ministries regarding "the safety belt" to be crated in the Punjab was unprecedented. The Prime Minister was attempting a constitutional amendment in the interest of the security of Punjab to empower Parliament to enact laws on subjects which were within the State list, despite the fact that there were provisions like "The Disturbed Areas Act", "The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1986, "The Special Power Arms Act", the power of the Centre to deploy Paramilitary forces in a disturbed State, and the extreme provision under Article 356 to install President's rule in the State in which constitutional machinery had failed. It was pointed out to the Prime Minister that there was an enabling provision of Article 249 of the Constitution which provided for empowering Parliament to enact laws on subjects in the State list, through a resolution moved in Rajya Sabha and adopted by a two-thirds majority. It was clearly indicated to the Prime Minister that in view of Article 249 the proposed constitutional amendment bill was redundant and unnecessary. The Opposition had only pointed out the enabling provision of Article 249 but had not committed itself to invoking Article 249. The Prime Minister, in fact, had assured the Opposition that the Government would prepare a position paper explaining whether the existing laws and provisions of the Constitution were adequate to deal with the situation in Punjab.

However, the Prime Minister threw this assurance to the winds and all of a sudden the Home Ministry produced a draft to be moved in the Rajya Sabha seeking invoking of Article 249. Strangely enough the resolution made no mention of the situation in Punjab. On the insistence of one Opposition party, reference to the Punjab situation was added in the preamble of the resolution. The Attorny General, however, made it clear to the Government that a reference in the preamble of the resolution did not affect or restrict the operative part of the resolution in any way. This meant that powers under Article 249 were taken not only for Punjab but for all States throughout India. The Prime Minister directed the Home Ministry to rush through the resolution to invoke Article 249.

After getting the resolution passed in the Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister realised that there was another constitutional provision of Article 258 (1) which required by implication that whenever the legislative powers of the State in certain subjects in the State list were taken over by the Centre and the Centre required for the execution of its laws the executive machinery of the State, it could be done only with the 'consent' of the concerned State. Thus, the resolution of the Rajya Sabha invoking Article 249 floundered on the rock of constitutional difficulties and the confusion became worst confounded. As a result the Prime Minister had to drop the follow-up action after invoking Article 249. This was Rajiv Gandhi's masterpiece in mishandling constitutional problems.

The recent debate on Punjab following the killing of bus passengers near Hoshiarpur by extremists exposed another trait of Rajiv Gandhi's performance in Parliament. This debate cut across party lines. Even some members of the ruling party staged a mini revolt in the Lok Sabha by attacking the Union Government for its colossal failure in Punjab. Rattled by this criticism, Mr Gandhi intervened in the debate and gave vent to his wrath against the Opposition in the most unseemly manner. Without any provocation, he told the Opposition in spirit of challenge that the Congress was the only party that had done grassroots work in Punjab and its workers more than those of any other party were killed by extremists in Punjab. Pained by this highly partisan attitude, I had to rise and urge the Prime Minister through the Speaker "not to have the partisan distribution of killings in Punjab since the blood spilt in Punjab was the blood of Indians and of human beings". Even many members of the ruling party appeared to be taken aback by the blantantly partisan attitude the Prime Minister had adopted about the killings.

The Prime Minister's attitude to the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill, 1986 was a classic example of casualness and ad hocism. During the meetings with Opposition leaders the Prime Minister had assured them that the Government would furnish them with material regarding the Constituent Assembly debates concerning the issue, the information of various laws regarding women in Islamic countries, and also the debates regarding Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code about maintenance for divorced women. During his talks with various delegations of women, the Prime Minister gave an assurance not to amend Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code without consulting them. However, with his characteristic casualness following the defeat of the Congress (I) in Punjab and Assam and in the Lok Sabha by elections in Orissa and Bihar, Rajiv Gandhi developed cold feet and as a political expediency and not out of any conviction, vigorously pleaded for the adoption of the Muslim Women's (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill, 1986 and directed his Parliament members through a whip to vote for the bill.

Rajiv Gandhi, as the leader of the House and the Prime Minister of the country had to ensure that his Council of Ministers strictly adhered to the principle of collective responsibility adumberated in Article 75(3) of the Constitution which clearly states that "The Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People," Strangely enough, two members of the Council of Ministers, Z. R. Ansari and Arif Mohamad Khan, while participating in G. M. Banatwala's Private Member Bill regarding the Judgment on the Shahbano case, openly voiced in the Lok Sabha contradictory views blatantly violating the principle of collective responsibility. The Prime Minister justified this violation in Parliament by arguing that the debate was on Private Member's Bill on which the Government had not taken the final decision. Not only the constitutional provisions but even the democratic conventions of Parliament do not justify the view taken by the Prime Minister. He was unmindful of the fact that to respect the principle of collective responsibility to the House of the People, V. V. Giri had resigned on the question of the failure of the Government to implement the Bank award; C. D. Deshmukh had resigned from the Council of Ministers on the question of state reorganisation; Dr B. R. Ambedkar had resigned from the Cabinet on the question of policy on Kashmir and Scheduled Castes; and Ashok Mehta had relinquished the Minister's post on the issue of Soviet armed intervention in Czechoslovakia. All these precedents were probably too trivial for Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

It was the bounden duty of Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister and leader of the Lok Sabha to ensure that his Council of Ministers respected the spirit of Article 121 of the Constitution which clearly states that "No discussion shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or High Court in the discharge of his duties except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the Judge," Both during the discussion on the substantive motion against Mr Jagmohan, Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and during Mr Banatwala's private motion concerning the Shahbano case, the Council of Ministers cast aspersions on the Judges. I had raised a point of order during the debate drawing the attention of the presiding authority to the violation of Article 121 by a member of the Council of Ministers and the Chair had upheld my point of order. And yet the Council of Ministers had the temerity to make a frontal attack on the Judges during the debate. Prime Minister Gandhi as the leader of the House did not find it necessary to restrain the members of his Council of Ministers from violating the constitutional provision barring discussion on the conduct of Judges.

Under the present Prime Minister the sanctity of democratic processes in Parliament is gradually being destroyed but Mr Rajiv Gandhi seems to be least distressed about it. For some years after independence the sanctity of the budgetary process was always respected and the budget was not pre-empted in a big way by mopping up financial resources outside the frame of the budget. Under Rajiv Gandhi the process of mopping up resources prior to the budget is going on in a big way. In last year's budget the resources proposed through new taxes were of the order of Rs 811 crore only, whereas the resources already mopped up before the budget through various executive orders were of the order of Rs 1,800 crore. The pronouncements by the Prime Minister on financial matters are often casual and irrational and even the Finance Minister sometimes found it difficult to defend him in Parliament. Unconcerned about the national goal of self-reliance, the Prime Minister had announced in a seminar on science and technology that if manufacture of import substitutes became costly it would be desirable to liberalise imports. Little did the Prime Minister realise that if this be the guiding principle, financially, it would be cheaper to import steel, fertiliser, cement, etc. rather than manufacture them indigenously. And then what would happen to the policy of self-reliance? What about the fritering away of our foreign exchange reserves and what about the widening of our trade gap and its adverse impact on our economy?

The Prime Minister has been indulging in repeated exercise of reshuffling his Council of Ministers. The continuing uncertainty about their portfolios destroys ministers' spirit of innovation and experimentation since they have no long-term commitment or stake in their portfolios. These constant shifts in ministerial portfolios have gravely affected the performance of ministers in parliamentary debates. Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister has hardly taken cognisance of the impact of this on the performance

in Parliament. If the Prime Minister continues his present style of functioning the ministerial performance in Parliament as well as the credibility of the Government will suffer to a great extent. But is Mr Gandhi in his present mood of intolerance concerned about it? This is the question that many have to ask and the Prime Minister has to reply.

Exception Taken to Sri Lanka-Punjab Comparison

BK101420 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The government has taken strong exception to the reported attempt by Sri Lanka to draw a comparison between the situation in the island and that in Punjab. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that such a comparison was unwarranted, misleading, and mischievous.

The reports in a section of Sri Lanka's press had attributed the comparison of the two situations to President Jayewardene.

Parliament Speaker Criticizes UK Gibraltar Policy

BK101418 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The Lok Sabha speaker, Dr Bal Ram Jakhar, has strongly criticized the British government's policy on immigration in Gibraltar, which denies wives and children of Indian nationals to remain in Gibraltar for more than 6 months.

Dr Jakhar, who visited Gibraltar last week, described the policy as bordering on cruelty. He met the governor and chief minister of Gibraltar and stressed the need to change it.

AFP: Sikh Students, Police Clash in Punjab

BK111214 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Excerpt] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Security forces clashed with Sikh students who went on the rampage to protest the death of a colleague in Punjab Wednesday, while Sikh militants killed a religious leader, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported.

Police fired in the air and teargassed students who attacked security forces in the holy city of Amritsar after hijacking a bus and blocking traffic, PTI said.

The protestors hurled stones and acid bombs at the police to protest against the death of Gurinder Singh, a college student who was reportedly killed in a gunbattle on Tuesday with security forces in the border district of Gurdaspur. The students hijacked a bus and set it on fire after ordering the passengers out, PTI said. Eleven policemen were injured in the stone-throwing.

The students alleged that Gurinder Singh had been killed in "cold blood" and turned violent when senior police officials tried to lift a road block in the heart of Amritsar, seat of the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine.

Elsewhere in the troubled northern state, suspected Sikh militants shot and killed the president of a village Sikh temple committee early Wednesday and wounded a Hindu government official overnight, PTI said.

Harbhajan Singh was killed in Hoshiarpur District, a known hub of militants fighting for a separate Sikh nation in Punjab, PTI said. It gave no other details. [passage omitted]

4 Killed, 2 Injured in Punjab 'Terrorist' Acts

BK101606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] In Punjab, four persons, including a subinspector of police and a terrorist, were killed and two injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities today. The subinspector was shot dead near Jullundur this morning by two suspected terrorists when he was on his way to the office.

In Amritsar District, two persons were shot dead this afternoon. One of the victims was on his way to a gurdwara near Chawk Mehta when he was attacked. The other was killed near (Jandealam)

In Gurdaspur District, two suspected terrorists shot at and seriously injured a brick kiln owner and his employee near Batala. One of the culprits was later killed in an encounter with a BSF [Border Security Force] party, which chased with the culprits.

Geneva Afghan Talks Adjourned for 2 Months

BK101346 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan have been adjourned for 2 months. Announcing this in Geneva today, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Cordovez, said significant progress has been achieved at the latest round of talks on reducing differences between the two sides on the timeframe of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. He said the time difference between the two sides, which was 45 months during the seventh round in May last year, has now been reduced to less than a year. He said the next round of negotiations would be the full stage of the seventh round. He said the talks have been considerably delayed in the past because of the difference on their formats and it was part of the understanding between the two sides that there would never be an eighth round.

Mr Cordovez reiterated his statement that there could not be a military solution of the Afghanistan problem. He said Afghanistan had been undergoing a political crisis for a very long time, which later acquired international dimensions. It was because of these reasons that only a political solution could settle the Afghan crisis.

U.S.-USSR 'Understanding' Needed

BK101644 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Mr Cordovez said the current phase of the seventh round of negotiations has been very intense, complex, and serious. He said both sides have left the negotiations with a definite commitment that they would come back to Geneva soon. It was his personal assessment that not more than 2 months should elapse between the closing of the current negotiations and the opening of the new round.

Mr Cordovez also stressed the importance of increased understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union — the guarantors of the 4-point Afghanistan settlement — for an early completion of the Geneva process. [passage omitted]

Settlement Efforts To Continue

BK101654 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Pakistan will continue to make every effort to promote a just and equitable political settlement to end the long agony of the Afghan people and to bring peace and harmony in the region. In an interview at the end of the indirect talks in Geneva today, the foreign minister said Pakistan was prepared to (?move) to discuss and finalize the timeframe issue as early as can be conveniently arranged. He said Mr Cordovez would remain in touch with the interlocutors for fixing dates for the resumption of the talks. The foreign minister said the Pakistan delegation had come to Geneva prepared to discuss the timeframe for withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan and to finalize a settlement.

Turkish Defense Minister Arrives 9 Mar

BK091548 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Turkish Defense Minister Yavuzturk, who arrived in Islamabad this afternoon, will have talks with Pakistani authorities on matters relating to bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of defense industry. He told newsmen on arrival in Islamabad that he will hold detailed discussions with Pakistani officials on a comprehensive framework for useful cooperation. Pakistan and Turkey maintain very useful and cordial cooperation in almost all fields, including defense, the Turkish minister added.

Answering a question about the bombing of Pakistani territory by the Kabul regime's aircraft, Yavuzturk said his country will never support such actions on Pakistan's borders from any country.

Views Defense Production With Junejo

BK100154 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1700 GMT 9 Mar 87

[Text] Turkish Minister for National Defense Mr Zeki Yavuzturk and his delegation called on Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi this evening. They expressed satisfaction at the existing cordial and brotherly relations between the two countries. They also exchanged views on matters relating to bilateral relations with special emphasis on the setting up of joint ventures in the field of defense production.

Later, the prime minister hosted a reception in honor of the distinguished guests.

Attends Honorary Dinner

TA101812 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish
1700 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] National Defense Minister Zeki Yavuzturk has said that Turkey attaches great importance to cooperating with Pakistan in the defense industry field and to expanding their facilities in this area. Yavuzturk was speaking in Islamabad, at a dinner given in his honor by Pakistani Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. The Turkish defense minister said that the friendship between the two countries is developing continuously and that this visit will help strengthen bilateral relations further.

Junejo stressed that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Turkey. He repeated an earlier invitation to Prime Minister Ozal to visit Pakistan.

During his talks with Prime Minister Junejo and chief of the General Staff, Yavuzturk discussed various bilateral issues, mainly cooperation in defense industry.

Meanwhile, the two countries' military and civilian experts continue to hold talks at the technical level.

AFP Reports Afghan Refugee Camp Bombed 3 Mar

AU101847 Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Geneva, March 10 (AFP) — An Afghan refugee camp in northwest Pakistan run by the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was bombed on March 3, killing five people and injuring five, a UNHCR spokesman said here. Spokesman Michel Barton said the attack occurred at the Khairabad camp, near the city of Drosh, close to the Afghanistan border.

There have been several previous bomb attacks on Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, which the Pakistani Government has blamed on the Afghan Air Force. In previous attacks on February 26 and 27 a total of more than 100 people were killed, local officials said.

Mr Barton said the United Nations mediator in indirect negotiations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Diego Cordovez, had been informed of the latest bombing.

AFP: Peshawar Hit by 'Mysterious' Rockets

BK110230 Hong Kong AFP in English 0144 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP) A number of rockets fell in Peshawar early Tuesday [10 March], damaging three houses in the Pakistani border city's wealthy district, Hayat Abad, officials said. But there were no casualties, they said.

Sources in Peshawar said at least five rockets, apparently launched from the tribal mountainous north, impacted the locality. They said Hayat Abad had been twice subjected to mysterious rocketting in the past two weeks. This is the first time that the rockets which earlier fell in open places, caused property damage.

Police suspect the fresh wave of rocketting was a new harassment tactic adopted by "Afghan-inspired terrorists" after a series of bomb explosions in hotels, schools, and other public places, which left dozens of people dead, also resulted in clashes between local population and Afghan refugees this year.

Afghan Protest on Air Intrusions 'Rejected'

BK101530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the Kabul regime's 5 March protest alleging that Pakistani Air Force planes violated Afghan airspace over Spin Buldak and Nazian on 3 and 4 March. The Afghan charge d' affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and told that the allegations have been investigated and found to be totally baseless.

Negotiations Held With U.S. on Defense Systems Sales

BK101602 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Speaking on identical privilege motions, Zain Noorani, minister of state for foreign affairs, told the National Assembly today that Pakistan is holding separate negotiations with the United States for the sale or lease of AWACS planes. These and other negotiations on similar available systems are now under way, and our experts are analyzing which system is the most suitable for Pakistan. About the comment attributed to the minister of state for external affairs in these motions, Zain Noorani said that while speaking on adjournment motions the other day, he had not made such a comment. These motions were made by Syed Fakhr Imam, Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali, and Javed Hashmi. They did not press their motions after the clarification by the minister. Deputy Speaker Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, who was presiding over the session, said that while introducing such privilege motions the movers should check the assembly records instead of relying on press reports.

Indian Troop Pullout Brings 'Complete Satisfaction'

BK111125 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Pakistan has expressed complete satisfaction on pullout of the Indian troops in the sectors south of Chhor in Pakistan and Barmer in India.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that the pullout of troops in the Chhor-Barmer sector will be completed well in time — probably by the 17th of this month. It is also expected that India will shortly communicate the timetable for the disassembly of substantial Indian Armed Forces in Rajasthan.

The spokesman emphasized that Pakistan has no desire to engage itself in an arms race in South Asia nor has it the means to do so.

Commenting on the enormous increase in the Indian military budget for 1987-88, he said Pakistan's defense budget and its entire defense program are related exclusively to its security concern. There are stringent limits to Pakistan's resources, and it would like to give all its attention to its economic development.

Khamene'i, Envoy to Turkey View 'Developments'

LD101606 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Manushehr Mottaki, who is here on a homecoming visit, briefed President 'Ali Khamene'i on the latest developments in Tehran-Ankara economic and political relations, Tuesday.

The president, referring to the common links between Iran and Turkey, underlined the importance of Tehran-Ankara relations as well as bilateral cooperation.

In a separate meeting Tuesday, President Khamene'i received the newly-appointed Iranian ambassador to Sierra Leone, Morteza Mahmudi who will shortly depart for the country of his assignment.

During the meeting, President Khamene'i emphasized on the need to further strengthen Iran-Sierra Leone relations and gave Mahmudi the necessary guidelines in this respect.

Velayati on Upcoming Visits to Bulgaria, Sudan

NC110610 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Our country's foreign minister left Tehran this morning leading a political-economic delegation on a visit to Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Afterward, he will go to Sudan. Prior to his departure, he spoke to our correspondent, explaining the objectives of his visit:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, would you please explain the purpose of your visits to Bulgaria and Sudan, and tell us who will be in your accompanying delegation?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The delegation accompanyiing me consists of brothers from the Islamic Majlis, and brothers from the Foreign Ministry's political and economic departments. Our visit to Bulgaria is in response to an invitation from that country's respected foreign minister and is in keeping with a tradition of the past several years by which the two countries' foreign ministers visit each other alternately every year. In view of the expanding ties between Iran and Bulgaria, we hope to explore fresh prospects for bilateral cooperation. Following the Islamic Revolution in Iran, our ties with Bulgaria have continued to grow. A high-level delegation recently came to Tehran, an example of exchanges that have taken place from time to time.

My visit to Sudan is for a similar purpose, and is the result of an invitation from the esteemed Sudanese foreign minister. When the people's regime came to power in Sudan we resumed relations with that country. In the short period of time that has since elapsed, our two countries have exchanged visits by various delegations in various fields. We feel that positive and beneficial discussions will take place between us and the Sudanese authorities and that, in the future, we will see tangible developments in the relations between our two Muslim countries.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Romanian Envoy Invites Majlis Speaker on Visit

LD111035 Tehran IRNA in English 1022 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Romanian charge d'affaires to Tehran. Nicolae Goia, conferred with the head of Majlis Foreign Policy Committee Ahmad 'Azizi here Tuesday morning.

The two sides discussed topics of mutual interest at the meeting in which the Romanian charge d'affaires delivered 'Azizi an invitation message from Romanian Grand National Assembly to Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit the country.

Minister of Interior Discusses Lebanon, Kurds

PM101437 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Mar 87 p 17

[Report from Hamadan by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent]

[Excerpts] Minister of the Interior Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami gave a speech to a group of Hamadan Province officials in government organizations and revolutionary bodies. He described the present situation in Lebanon and the compromising attitudes of Arab countries and said that the Islamic resistance of the Hezbollah in Lebanon is the only successful force in the struggle against the United States and Israel. He said that the recent clashes in Beirut were part of world arrogance's plot to stop Islamic movements. [passage omitted]

He talked about the situation in Lebanon and said: The only force which fought the U.S. superpower and the Zionists and was successful in this struggle and revolt in defeating these forces was the Hezbollah, which today is being massacred and crushed. This is because the superpowers and world aggressors are scared of the immense power of the active Islamic groups.

Lebanon has become a laboratory for world politicians and a place for experiments on people and political parties. Anyone who wants to launch a plan in the world tries it out in Lebanon first and after that takes the plan into other countries.

On the other hand Lebanon is recognized as a university for the world's liberation movements and organizations. This could be considered both a positive and a negative element in that country's civil war. All Arab countries have established a ground base for themselves in Lebanon, and all these killings are due to foreign countries' interests.

The only group that has not been involved in the political or military scene in Lebanon and which has not interfered in clashes has been the Islamic resistance forces and the Hezbollah. [passage omitted]

In another part of his speech the interior minister said: We have heard that Jordan and Algeria are planning to deploy troops to safeguard peace and security in the camps as peacekeepers. What I want to ask these and other Arab countries is this: Why do

you want to deploy troops in Lebanon? Did that country have security when more than 150,000 Zionist troops were in Lebanon, when they took the south and Beirut? When various parts of that country were leveled by shells from the *New Jersey*, did the people then have security? Where were you then to send troops to provide security fro the Lebanese people?

Now the Islamic resistance and the Hezbollah have been mobilized for war against aggressive Israel, kicking out the invading troops. Islam has been victorious and the holy lands of Lebanon have been liberated by the guardians of Lebanon. They are about to establish a humane, Islamic regime in that country to establish justice. Those countries who fled like mice in the face of Israeli attacks now want to establish security in Lebanon! [passage omitted]

This is a widespread plot. The entry of Jordanian and other troops from other Arab nations is not to establish peace in Lebanon. If they were men of battle and holy war, they would have gone into Lebanon in the years when Israel attacked Lebanon. The only country which entered the scene after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon to resist the Zionists was the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Arab countries did not even suggest a struggle against the United States and Israel. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashami gave a press conference later during his trip to Hamadan Province. He announced that a large portion of the counterrevolutionary elements in Kordestan and Western Azarbayjan have been demolished.

He added: The hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] have no popular bases left in the country and their futile attempts are not completely out of sight of the security forces.

He said: These corrupt groups are supported through Saddam, Bakhtiar, and royalists, and they want to seek revenge for the successes of the Islamic Revolution.

The interior minister talked about the measures taken by our security forces to neutralize the actions of these elements. He said: The corrupt atmosphere of Kordestan Province has been purged of all counterrevolutionaries, and the eastern frontiers of the country are being controlled effectively with the help of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Islamic Revolution committees, and the Gendarmerie. In the near future the remainder of these elements will be handed over to Islamic justice.

The interior minister then commented on the efforts made to arrest the international gangs of drug smugglers and control the eastern borders of the country. He said that he hoped that with the decreasing number of addicts the widespread network of smugglers will be diminished and finally destroyed. [passage omitted]

Tehran on Unjustifiable Turkish Attack on Iraq

LD111014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Unattributed commentary from Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps program]

[Text] The dying Ba'thist-Zionist regime ruling over Baghdad, which sees its own downfall and destruction clearly, resorts to all sorts of crimes during the last days of its reign. It wants to leave behind no nation or land called Iraq after it is gone.

Therefore, in addition to the mass slaughters and deadly crimes that it commits, it also allows the military Turkish Government to crush the struggling Kurdish Iraqis and to bomb towns and villages in northern Iraq.

The air raid by the Turkish Government, using 30 fighters, the overland advance of that country's forces on the Kurds in northern Iraq, and the bombing of 9 Kurdish-inhabited villages 7 kilometers inside Iraq, are the latest acts committed against Iraq's territorial integrity.

The bombing of Kurdish-inhabited areas and the attack on Iraqi soil, which killed or injured several Iraqi Kurds, prompted a formal protest by the Islamic Republic of Iran. By saying that the recent military invasion by that country had been staged with the consent of the Iraqi regime, the Turkish Government cannot suitably justify this regrettable action. For, the consent of the cruel and beastly regime ruling Baghdad to crush the Muslim Iraqi nation, especially under the present circumstances when more than ever before it is on the verge of destruction, cannot be an acceptable excuse for overt military aggression by Turkey or any other hegemonistic country on the frontiers of the Islamic land of Iraq.

Embassy in Beijing Denies PRC Sold Arms

LD110742 Tehran IRNA in English 0736 GMT 11 Mar 87

[Text] Beijing, March 11, IRNA — The Iranian Embassy here in a statement issued Tuesday [10 March] categorically denied recent statement of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz alleging that the People's Republic of China had sold arms to Iran.

The statement described such claims a "propagandistic move to cover up recent scandal of the U.S. President."

The embassy statement further referred to the McFarlane scandal and the failed U.S. rapprochement attempt with Iran, and said that Shultz in interviews in Beijing and Hong Kong tried to cover up U.S. defeats by raising baseless claims that China had sold arms to Iran.

The statement also described Shultz's statements on the Iraqi imposed war as unrealistic and stressed that the U.S. Administration has been one of the main supporters of the Iraqi regime and that it encouraged the Baghdad regime to launch the war on Iran.

Clandestine Radio Reports Officers' Defection

NC101431 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Nationalist circles report that Colonel 'Abbas 'Abedi, chief of staff of the Islamic Republic's Air Force, who had been

sent to London to purchase arms, has defected and sought political asylum in a country of the free world. The same report states that approximately 30 other officers, several of whom were members of the arms-purchasing delegation, fled at the same time as Col 'Abedi. *Al-Watan Al-'Arabi* magazine, published in London, published a report on Col 'Abedi's defection in a recent issue.

Before his defection Col 'Abedi sent his wife and child to a country of the free world, and he later joined his family from London, seeking political asylum.

The names of a number of the officers who fled at the same time as the chief of staff of the Air Force are: Colonel Esma'il Hoseyni-Tala'iye, locum tenens of the chief of staff of the Air Force; Major Mohammad Vafeqi, an air defense officer trusted by the regime; Colonel 'Ali Akbar Eskandari, the Islamic Republic's defense attache in India; Major Hasan Shahraki, F-4 pilot; and Colonel Bizhan Riahi, head of transport operations and an officer trusted by the regime.

Commander Terms 'Karbala'-7' 'Unprecedented'

LD101846 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] "Karbala'-7" Operational Theater, March 10, IRNA — A ranking Iranian military commander in this war theater described as "historical and unprecedented" from the militarily point of view the "Karbala'-7" operations launched by Muslim forces of Iran in Hajj 'Umran in northeastern Iraq on March 3.

The commander told IRNA here that the "Karbala'-7" operations, added a new page to the brilliant Iranian victories. He said that during the operations, launched in a 50 sq.km. mountainous area, in temperatures below freezing point, personnel of the 64th Division of Orumiyeh had managed to break through all fortified Iraqi positions, attaining all predetermined goals in the early hours of the assault.

He said that speed and bravery of Iranian Muslim combatants were two important factors for the victories over Iraqi troops in the operations.

Several brigades of Iraq's 23rd Division were totally destroyed and heavy damage was inflicted on Brigade 3 of the 25th Division in the "Karbala'-7" assault, he added.

The military commander noted that Iran's Muslim combatants liberated the strategic snow-capped Heights 2519, Gerdmand [as received] and Yal-e Kalehasbi [as received] in the war theater, destroying the Iraqi war machine.

At least 3,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 289 others captured by Iranian combatants in the surprise operations, he said, noting that a large amount of enemy military equipment was also destroyed or seized intact.

Furthermore, the commander said that nine Iraqi counter-offensives were smashed in the operational theater by Iranian forces as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses each time, the commander concluded.

IRGC Ground Forces Shoot Down Iraqi MiG-23

LD101617 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — An Iraqi MiG-23 was shot down east of Basra by heavy anti-aircraft fire of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) at 08:40 GMT Tuesday. The plane was seen crashing down behind Iraq's petorochemical plant.

There is yet no report on the fate of the plane's pilot.

Over the past two days, three other Iraqi "PC-7" planes were shot down east of Basra by the surface-to air fire of the IRGC Ground Forces according to IRGC central headquarters.

'Karbala' 7' Combatants Continue Operations

LD101735 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that at midnight last night the powerful combatants of the 64th Infantry Division attacked the positions of 96th Infantry Brigade of Iraq in the "Karbala'-7" offensive zone, inflicting considerable losses on that brigade. During these operations 1 ammunition dump and 1 base of the 96th Infantry Brigade of Iraq were destroyed, and 45 of that base's personnel were killed.

According to this report, the heroic personnel of 64th Division of Orumiyeh fired with heavy artillery on the bases and artillery positions of the Ba'thist enemy in (Kalaleh), Choman Mustafa, (Manikhulan), Dar al-Salam, and Choman under their heavy artillery fire, destroying 50 percent of the enemy's equipment in those positions and killing a large number of Saddamists.

Also yesterday afternoon six helicopters of the desperate enemy attempted to carry out some operations in the region, but air defenses' heavy fire forced them to flee before they carried them out.

Communique 2,771 Details Operations

LD101641 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Two Iraqi gunboats attempting to cross Khawr 'Abdallah waterway at 14:30 GMT Monday, were forced to flee by heavy coastal artillery fire of Iranian naval forces. The Iraqi gunboats sustained substantial damage while fleeing, according to a military communique released here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,771 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iran's Gendarmerie forces set ablaze 15 gun-emplacements and observation posts of Iraqi troops in southern fronts, killing some enemy forces.

The communique said that exchange of artillery fire raged on in the northwestern fronts on Monday, being somewhat more intense in the "Karbala'-7" operational theater and Kolaleh [as received] region. Muslim combatants of Iran consolidating their positions in the liberated areas in the region, destroyed some Iraqi

tanks in the process. Enemy engineering activities were also disrupted by heavy shelling of Iranian Muslim forces, it added.

In the western fronts the Muslim combatants pounded parts of Iraqi defense lines and supply routes in Ilam and Bakhtaran, and inflicted considerable damage and casualties on the Iraqi troops around Qasr-e Shirin, said the communique.

Iranian Muslim combatants heavily shelled parts of Iraqi defense lines and gun emplacements in southern fronts where some enemy troops were killed and wounded, concluded the communique.

IRGC Announces Kurdish 'Guerrilla Attacks'
LD101508 Tehran IRNA in English 1457 GMT 10 Mar 87

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Peshmergas of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) of Iraq launched a series of guerrilla attacks against Iraqi Ba'thist troops in the northern province of Dahuk this week, dealing heavy blows on the tottering Baghdad regime.

Announcing the above, the central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said that the KDP forces attacked the provincial capital city of Dahuk Monday, killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi soldiers. Some buildings housing military and government officers in the city were destroyed and several vehicles damaged in the attack.

Simultaneous with the operations, the KDP fighters seized a key radar station in Mercika township, a suburb of Mawsil, after a fierce battle with Iraqi Ba'thist troops.

The headquarters of the Ba'th Party and a police station in the township were destroyed and 26 Ba'thist soldiers were captured by the Kurdish forces.

Meanwhile, at least 50 Iraqi soldiers and security agents were killed or wounded in Kani Masi town in Dahuk Province Monday when their bases were raided by the KDP forces.

The Kurdish fighters took control of the city for a few hours before returning safely to bases, the IRGC Central Hqs. concluded.